

Senate Resolution 530

By: Senator Tarver of the 22nd

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Ellis M. Johnson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Ellis M. Johnson is a highly talented vocalist, chorale director, and church choir  
3 director who once sang a duet with opera diva Jessye Norman; and
- 4 WHEREAS, while attending Paine College he studied voice and choral conducting with  
5 Ruby T. Jenkins and piano with Emily Remington and while at studying at Fort Valley State  
6 University, he studied voice with William Mathis and James Moore; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he also studied at such fine institutions as Seton Hall University, Montclair  
8 State College, Harvard University, and Augusta State University; and
- 9 WHEREAS, while serving his country in the United States Army, he was chapel choir  
10 director and a frequent soloist, having won the Third Army Vocal Competition Award; and
- 11 WHEREAS, early in his career he taught music and mathematics in the public schools of  
12 Richmond County; and
- 13 WHEREAS, he later pursued a career in counseling and retired as the Director of Student  
14 Services at Aiken Technical College before being selected in 1995 as an adjudicator for the  
15 Jacob K. Javits Music Fellowship held in Washington, D.C.; and
- 16 WHEREAS, this extremely gifted individual sang with the Augusta Choral Society for which  
17 he was often a featured tenor soloist, sang with the Augusta Opera, and was a soloist with  
18 the Augusta Symphony; and
- 19 WHEREAS, in 1997, he was named Opera Man of the Year and, in 1998, he received the  
20 Greater Augusta Arts Council's Annual Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of  
21 distinguished service to the arts community; and

1 WHEREAS, he has been the music director of the Augusta Chorale for 14 years and also  
2 serves as choir director of the Sanctuary Choir of Elim Baptist Church where he has provided  
3 a very meaningful contribution to the religious services and offered many special music  
4 programs for the congregation and the community to enjoy.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
6 recognize Ellis M. Johnson for his marvelous musical ability and commend him for  
7 providing the citizens of his community with a valuable source for personal enrichment and  
8 spiritual renewal.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
10 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ellis M. Johnson.